ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BETHANY CHURCH,

MONROE COUNTY, ALA.,

COMMENCING SATURDAY, SEPT. 24th, 1859.

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1859.

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Bethany Church, September 24th, 1859.

The Bethelem Baptist Association met according to adjournment. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. D. Kindrick, from Rev. 6. 17. "For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?"

After an hour's recess, the Delegates assembled in the Meeting House and were called to order by the former Moderator, Elder W. C. Morrow. Prayer was offered by Elder K. Hawthorne. The body then proceeded to business, R. P. Stallworth acting as clerk *pro tem.*

The letters were read and the names of the Delegates enrolled. (See tabular statement.) Proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year. Elder W. C. Morrow was chosen Moderator, and Z. G. Henderson Clerk.

Appointed committee on preaching, F. Straugh, R. Lambert, Elder George Lee and the Deacons of Bethany Church. Elder R. Keith was appointed to preach at 3 P. M., at the harbor. On Sabbath, Elder D. Lee at 11 A. M., Elder H. E. Taliaferro at 3 P. M., followed by Elder K. Hawthorne; and Elder J. E. Bell at night. To the colored people, Elder A. D. Stewart, at 11 A. M., and Elder J. C. R. Lockheart at 3 P. M. Invited ministering brethren, to seats with us, Elders H. E. Taliaferro, C. L. Thornton, and R. Gentry accepted the invitation.

Petitionary letters for membership were called for. And Delegates bearing letters from the following newly constituted churches were received and the right hand of fellowship extended to them, viz: Pleasant Hill, Sardis, Union, Shady Grove, Old Town and Pine Barren.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On the State of Religion.—Elder J. McWilliams, T. A. McIver, A. Hendrix, Wm. Helton.

On Domestic Missions.—D. M. McNiel, Elder N. Parker, D. Hestle, J. J. Jackson.

On Documents.—Elder N. Parker, Elder Z. Williams, J. Savel, W. C. Carter.

On Sabbath Schools.—Elder A. D. Stewart, J. B. Long, H. Hand, J. Burt.

On Temperance.—Elder P. S. Milner, F. Straughn, A. Thomas, A. Parker.

On Correspondence.—Elder G. L. Lee, H. Gulley, J. Henderson.

On Queries and Requests.—Elder L. H. Oswalt, D. Robbins, E. Salter, T. Starke.

On Finance.—R. R. Mosely, J. M. Travis, J. J. Jackson, L. Carter.

After some very appropriate remarks on the subject of prayer by Elder D. Lee, the body adjourned till Monday morning 9 A. M. Prayer by Elder H. E. Taliaferro.

On Sabbath the appointed ministers preached with great acceptance to large attentive audiences. At the close of the forenoon services a collection for home missions was taken up, amounting to forty-eight dollars.

Monday Morning, Sept. 26th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. Talbert.

Minutes were read and approved, and the roll called and corrected.

Rules of order were read.

An opportunity was given for the presentation of other letters.

Letters from corresponding bodies were called for.

Providence Association.—Elder K. Hawthorne presented a letter and minutes and was received.

Pine Barren Association.—Present with letter and minutes. Elder C. W. Hare, S. S. Andress, Elder L. McWilliams and Elder L. W. Lindsey.

Alabama Association.—Present with letter and minutes, Elder D. Lee, Elder R. Keith, Elder J. E. Bell.

Zion Association.—Present, Elder J. C. R. Lockheart, with minutes.

Bethel Association.—Elder J. Talbert was present and recognized in lieu of others who failed to come.

The committee on preaching, appointed Elder J. Talbert to preach at the Stand in the forenoon and Elder C. L. Thornton in the afternoon. Elder R. Keith was recognized as the corresponding Secretary of the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society located at Selma, Alabama. The executive board was granted further time in which to report, and the election of a board for the next year, was deferred till after they reported.

The report on Domestic Missions was read and re-committed.

Brother T. Stark was granted leave of absence on account of illnes

The report on Documents was road and re-committed.

The report on The State of Religion was read and adopted. (See App. A.)

The report on Sabbath Schools was read and after pertinent remarks by various brethren was adopted. (App. B.)

The report on Temperance was read and adopted. (App. C.)

The committees on Correspondence, Queries and Requests, and Finance were granted further time in which to report.

The report of the Missionary, Elder A. D. Stewart for the last year's services in the bounds of the Association was read and adopted. (App D.)

The item of raising funds as a basis of representation in the next State Convention, was next taken up. A letter was read to the body from Elder M. T. Sumner, asking immediate aid to relieve the present necessities of the Marion Board. Pending the consideration of the subject a recess of an hour was taken.

Business resumed at the appointed time.

After some further remarks by various brethren a collection was taken up for Domestic Missions amounting to $73 25-100.

Afforded Brother S. S. Andress an opportunity to report what disposition he made of the funds placed in his hands by members of this Association, to aid Sister Sessions, the wife of our much beloved brother Elder J. J. Sessions, deceased.

Granted Elder R. Keith an opportunity to present to the body, the claims of the Society which he represents.

After a warm address from him, a collection was taken up of $13 90-100.

The following brethren volunteered to go as Delegates to the Convention: A. Jay, W. C. Morrow, G. L. Lee, Z. G. Henderson,

Adjourned till 9 A. M., Tuesday morning. Prayer by Elder L. W. Lindsey.

TUESDAY MORNING, Sept. 27th,

Met pursuant to ajournment. Prayer by Elder P. S. Milner.

Read *Tabular Statement* and corrected it. Brethren volunteered to go to our corresponding bodies as follows:

PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION.—J. McWilliams, A. Jay, R. P. Stallworth, A. J. McDonald, D. Robbins, R. Gentry, S. H. Oswalt, F. Straughn, J H. Dailey.

PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION.—Z. P. Scott, A. Hendrix, F. Straughn.

BETHEL ASSOCIATION.—R. Lambert, W. E. Carter.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.—P. S. Milner, G. L. Lee.

West Florida.

Zion.—J. B. Long, N. Parker, E. Nix, Z. Williams, J. McLean, L. H. Oswalt, R. Gentry, A. Jay.

An opportunity was given brother K. Hawthorne to present the claims of a second colored Church in Mobile, in trying to build them a house of worship. A small contribution was made for that purpose.

The report on Domestic Missions was read and adopted. (App. E.)

The committee appointed Elder K. Hawthorne to preach at the Stand in the forenoon.

The committee on Documents find nothing claiming their attention.

The committee on Correspondence reported letters written accompanied by a package of minutes to the various Corresponding Bodies.

The report on Queries and Requests adopted. (App. F.)

The report of the Executive Board was adopted. (App. G.)

Moved that the item of Documents be stricken from the order of business.

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Elder A. Jay and adopted.

Whereas, we feel the importance of united effort and prayer for the promotion of missions and the support of the various good objects of beneficence before the churches, and, whereas, we heartily endorse the plan suggested by the Southern Baptist Convention, of devoting one week in the year for the promotion of Missions: Therefore:

Resolved, That we recommend the churches of this Association to devote the last week in June of every year, in prayer and effort for the support of these good objects, and send up the result to the next session of this Association.

Resolved, That we recommend the churches to adopt the *card system*, and raise and send up through their Delegates, all that they can contribute for the various objects of beneficence, so that it will be needless for agents to visit us to solicit contributions.

The report of Finance and Auditing committee was read and adopted. (App. H.)

The Clerk was excused from reporting on the subject of Mission, owing to a want of time to prepare the report.

Resolved, That we now go into the election of a Missionary for the ensuing year.

A recess of ten minutes was given to allow brethren to confer with each other on the subject. Upon resuming business the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That in the election now to be made, if the brother receiving the highest number of votes will not accept the tender, the one receiving the next highest vote shall be entitled to the position, but if he should decline, the Executive Board are hereby authorized to make the best arrangement they can for a supply. Elder J. D. Kendrick, Z. G. Henderson and R. R. Moseley were appointed tellers. Elder C. L. Thornton was elected and a committee consisting of Elder A. Jay, R. R. Moseley and A. Hendrix were requested to inform him of his election, and return an answer from him.

The committee reported his acceptance.

Resolved, That the limits of the field be left with the Missionary and the Board.

Resolved, That the Missionary's salary be $400, exclusive of funds that may be contributed for that purpose directly from the destitution on the coast.

Resolved, That the next session of the Association be held with Beulah church Conecuh County, Alabama.

Appointed Elder Z. G. Henderson to preach the next introductory sermon, and Elder C. L. Thornton, alternate.

Instructed the Clerk to write letters of dismission for the following churches. Yellow River, Friendship, Antioch, New Prospect, (Covington,) Fairmount, New Providence.

Elected R. P. Stallworth Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Appropriated $50 for publishing minutes, and $37 55-100 to the Clerk for his trouble in printing and distributing. Treasurers's report was read and adopted. (App. J.)

There being a deficit of $71 70-100 in the salary of the Missionary for the past year, a collection was taken up amounting to that sum and the Missionary settled with in full.

Requested Elder H. E. Taliaferro to preach in the Meeting House soon after the adjournment of the Session. Adjourned to meet with the Beulah Church of Christ, Conecuh County, Alabama, on Saturday before 4th Lord's day, Sept. 1860. W. C. MORROW, Moderator.

J. G. HENDERSON, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX:

(A.)

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The committee appointed to report on the State of Religion within the bounds of this Association, have the pleasure of stating that it is in a more prosperous state than before. From the letters borne by the Delegates of the churches, we find that the Lord, in many places, has poured out His spirit. Thereby sinners have been convicted, mourners comforted, and saints made to rejoice. Yet in some churches Zion languishes, and the gates thereof mourn. Some churches and neighborhoods are sparely supplied with the preached word. Brethren let us pray the Lord to carry on His work until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

J. McWILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN.

(B.)

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that from the letters sent up, we have but little information upon the subject. We

would earnestly recommend that a good Sabbath school be established in connection with every church. Let parents and children of every neighborhood, and members of the church attend and all take an interest and it can be done. It will promote the welfare of each church and community, to have a Sabbath school, because where preaching is only monthly it will bring the people together every Sabbath, and soon there will be prayer meetings, exhortations, and preaching and thereby a religious interest increased. A. D. STEWART, CHAIRMAN.

(C.)

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee are of the opinion that any further action on this subject by the Association, is unnecessary. As the subject legitamately belongs to the churches of Christ, every Minister of the gospel, and every christain should be active and united in their efforts to suppress the great evil—intemperance. P. S. MILNER, CHAIRMAN.

(D.)

MISSIONARIES REPORT.

As your Missionary for the past year, I beg leave to make the following report: Labored 263 days. Traveled from 23 to 25 hundred miles. Preached 228 sermons. Exhortations, Sabbath schools, lectures, prayers and religious visits made, not recollected. Organized five Sabbath schools. Aided in constituting three churches, viz: Pine Barren, Pleasant Hill and Shady Grove. In addition to these, there are three others that wish to organize. Aided in licensing brother J. L. Briers to preach the gospel. Baptized eighteen converts, and received four others not yet baptized. Respectfully submitted

A. D. STEWART, MISSIONARY.

(E.)

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your committee on Domestic Missions are happy to state that the labors of your Missionary have been greatly blessed. The field of labor is a very interesting one, and the support of this Mission commends itself to our generosity and christian beneficence. Some parts of the field have become selfsustaining, while in other portions additional materials for Missionary labor is to be found. We are, therefore, encouraged, and should renew our exertions to supply the destitute with the preached word. For further particulars we refer you to brother Stewart's report. D. M. McNEIL, CHAIRMAN.

(F.)

REPORT ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your committee on Queries and Requests, find nothing under this head upon which to report, except that several churches petition letters of dismission, in order to join the Zion Association, which letters we recommend you to grant. L. H. OSWALT, CHAIRMAN.

(G.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board are gratified to be able to report the field in our bounds to be in a prosperous condition. Brother A. D. Stewart, your Missionary, has been very laborious in the discharge of his duties, and we believe that God has blessed his ministry. We can heartily

recommend all concerned in this good work, to be liberal and prayerful in their labors of love in which we evidently see the hand of God.

W. C. MORROW, PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE BOARD.

(H.)

REPORT OF FINANCE AND AUDITING COMMITTEE.

Your committee report the following amounts, for the objects designated :

Churches.	Minutes.	Domestic Missions.	Churches.	Minutes.	Domestic Missions.
Montgomery Hill	$ 2 50	30	New Prospect, Butler	$ 2 00	$
Claiborne	3 00	20 00	New Hope	2 00	10 25
Monroeville	5 00	15 00	Union	2 00	
Salem	2 50		Sepulga	1 50	
Zion	2 50	9 10	Beulah	4 00	30 00
Philadelphia	2 50	7 50	Brooklyn	3 00	21 30
Bethany	3 00	21 50	Elim	1 00	
Evergreen	3 00	15 00	Murder Creek	1 50	1 50
Olive Branch	3 00	5 00	Catawba Springs	1 50	2 20
Bellville	5 00	10 00	Pilgrims Rest	1 00	
Arkadelphia	3 00		Pensacola	2 50	17 45
Bethel	1 25		Coon Hill	80	5 00
Martins Mill	60		Brushey Creek	1 25	
Yellow River	3 00	80	New Providence	1 50	5 00
Antioch	1 00		Friendship	70	
Fairmount	1 75		Shiloh	1 00	
Oaky Streak	1 00		New Hope	1 00	
Macadonia	50		N'w Prosp'ct Cov'ton		
Hopewell, Covingt'n	2 50		Georgiana	2 00	
Red Rock	2 20		Pleasant Hill	1 00	
Sardis	1 00		Old Town	2 50	
Shady Grove	1 00		Hopewell, Conecuh	1 50	
Pine Barren	1 50				

(*) Pensacola Church $37 for the Marion Board.

SUMS PAID BY INDIVIDUALS :

F. Straughn	$10 00	Thomas Tompson	$5 00
Henry Gulley	5 00	Daniel Robbins	2 50
W. F. Thomas	1 00	Mary Wiggins	50

C. W. Snowden..... $ 1 50 for Foreign Missions.

Respectfully submitted, R. R. MOSELY, CHAIRMAN.

(*) Through mistake of the Treasury, the $37 sent by the Pensacola church to the Marion Board, and the $1 50 from C. W. Snowden to the Foreign Board were paid over to the Missionary of the Association for services rendered during the last Associational year. CLERK.

(I.)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

R. P. Stallworth in account with the Bethelem Association.

DR.		CR.	
To cash received of R. R Mosely, former Treasurer	$ 20	By Amount paid Z. G. Henderson for Minutes.....	$ 87 55
To amount Finance Committee.....	367 65	Amount paid A. D. Stewart Missionary.....	328 30
To Sabbath Collection.....	48 00		415 85
	$415 85		

Respectfully submitted, R. P. STALLWORTH, TREASURER.

(*) The balance due the Missionary was made up by individuals after this report was made. CLERK.

A List

of the names of Ministers belonging to churches in the Association:

[Ordained Ministers, in small caps ; Licenciated, in italics.]

A. J. LAMBERT.....	Tensaw	Post Office.
J. M. WILLIAMS.....	Monroeville	"
G. L. LEE.....	Burnt Corn	"
W. C. MORROW.....	Bellville	"
A. JAY.....	Sparta	"
J. SMITH.....	"	"
M. P. COOPER.....	Cokerville	"
P. S. MILNER.....	Georgiana	"
Z. WILLIAMS.....	Brooklyn	"
T. BENNETT.....	Starlington	"
N. PARKER.....	Oaky Streak	"
L. H. OSWALT.....	Loango	"
A. D. STEWART.....	"	"
J. MITCHELL.....	Milton	"
Z. G. HENDERSON.....	Pensacola	"
C. L. THORNTON.....	"	"
J. D. Beck.....	"	"
W. A. Jones.....	"	"
J. L. Briers.....	"	"